

Governor's Taskforce on Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response

August 11, 2014

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Board Room 2, Perimeter Center, Henrico, Virginia

*****DRAFT***MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present

Chair

The Honorable Ralph Northam, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia

Co-Chairs

The Honorable Bill Hazel, MD, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

The Honorable Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety

Members

The Honorable Mark Herring, (proxy), Attorney General of Virginia

The Honorable Cynthia Kinser (proxy), Chief Justice of Virginia Supreme Court

The Honorable Emmett Hanger, Senate of Virginia

Debra Ferguson, PhD, Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Cindi Jones, Commissioner, Department of Medical Assistance Services

Colonel Steven Flaherty, Superintendent, Virginia Department of State Police

The Honorable James Agnew, Sheriff, County of Goochland, Goochland

John Venuti, Chief, VCU Police Department, Richmond

Mike O'Connor, Executive Director, Henrico Area Community Services, Henrico

Chuck Walsh, Executive Director, Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB, Saluda

Lawrence “Buzz” Barnett, Emergency Services Director, Region Ten CSB, Charlottesville

Kaye Fair, Emergency Services Director, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB, Fairfax

Melanie Adkins, Emergency Services Director, New River Valley Community Services, Blacksburg

Jeffrey Lanham, Regional Magistrate Supervisor, 6th Magisterial Region

Daniel Holser, Chief Magistrate, 12th Judicial District

Bruce Lo, MD, Chief, Department of Emergency Medicine, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk

William Barker, MD, Emergency Medicine, Fauquier Hospital, Warrenton

Douglas Knittel, MD, Psychiatric Emergency Services Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth

Thomas Wise, MD, Dept. of Psychiatry, Inova Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church

Anand Pandurangi, MD, VCU, Richmond

Cynthia McClaskey, PhD, Director, Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Marion

Joseph Trapani, Chief Executive Officer, Poplar Springs Hospital, Petersburg

Ted Stryker, Vice President, Centra Mental Health Services, Lynchburg

Greg Peters, President and CEO, United Methodist Family Services, Richmond

Teshana Henderson, CAO, NDUTIME Youth & Family Services, Richmond

Becky Sterling, Consumer Recovery Liaison, Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB

Ben Shaw, Region 1 Coordinator, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, RACSB, Virginia Dept. of Veterans Services, Fredericksburg

Rhonda VanLowe, Counsel, Rolls Royce North America, Fairfax

Tom Spurlock, Vice President, Art Tile, Inc., Roanoke

Staff Present

Suzanne Gore, Deputy Secretary, Health and Human Resources

Daniel Herr, Assistant Commissioner for Behavioral Health Services, DBHDS

Janet Lung, Director of Office of Child and Family Services, DBHDS

Drew Molloy, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services

Jim Martinez, Director of Office of Mental Health Services, DBHDS

Michael Shank, Director of Community Support, Office of Mental Health Services, DBHDS

Mary Begor, Crisis Program Specialist, DBHDS

Meghan McGuire, Communications Director, DBHDS

Maria Reppas, Deputy Director of Communications, DBHDS

Allyson Tysinger, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Karen Taylor, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Members Absent

The Honorable Cynthia Kinser, Chief Justice of Virginia Supreme Court

The Honorable Janet Howell, Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Rob Bell, Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Joseph Yost, Virginia House of Delegates

Margaret Schultze, Commissioner, Department of Social Services

The Honorable Gabriel Morgan, Sheriff, City of Newport News

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Ralph Northam, Lieutenant Governor, Chair

Bill Hazel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety

Lieutenant Governor Northam welcomed all of the participants. He called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. There was a motion which was approved. He reviewed the agenda and tasks for this meeting.

Secretary Hazel also noted the broad scope of work that is going on in behavioral health at this time.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Update

Debra Ferguson, Ph.D., Commissioner, DBHDS

(Handout provided)

- Dr. Ferguson spoke about the crisis response system. She noted that legal changes are in place to address much-needed reforms. Type 1 TDO Exceptions have declined since January. Type 2 TDO Exceptions are also trending down.
- She described briefly what a transformed system would look like and the DBHDS plan to implement transformation with a focus on
 - Accountability
 - Transparency
 - Communication
 - Collaboration
 - Commitment to Best Practices Implementation

Discussion of June Recommendations

Chair and Co-Chairs

Meghan McGuire read each of the June 16 Taskforce Recommendations.

Some key comments were made on the following three recommendations:

1. The term “Center of Excellence” may not fully reflect what is intended. Add medical professionals to the list in the second sentence. The objectives of the Center of Excellence are broader than public safety.
2. Question about the wording. Insert the word “not”.
5. Secretary Hazel noted that in the COPN process, all psych beds are equal. Looking into strategies

The Task Force voted to pass all six recommendations.

Cumulative Workgroup Recommendations

Meghan McGuire, Communications Director, DBHDS

Meghan McGuire read each of the workgroup recommendations.

A. “READY FOR ACTION” Recommendations – The Task Force voted to pass all 10 recommendations.

B. “DISCUSSION NEEDED” Recommendations:

1B – it was recommended that there be pilots prior to full implementation of this recommendation. The aspiration is to improve access, but actual implementation may require greater flexibility.

2B – Refer to the Mental Health and the Law Committee

3B – There was considerable discussion about the pros and cons of this recommendation. It would involve a major rewrite of the law. There may not be enough beds. This might circumvent the consideration of other options less restrictive than psychiatric hospitalization. Defer to the Mental Health and the Law Committee

1B, 4B, 5B, 6B – a motion was made and approved to combine these recommendations under 8B. Further it was suggested that these be considered by the transformation teams.

9B – This is part of the charge to the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

11B – There was concern about creating veteran’s courts/dockets. Delete this phrase and add “problem-solving courts”. Combine with 12B and 13B.

12B – combined with 11B

13B – combined with 11B.

14B – 1 separate the two sentences. Introduce legislation that would facilitate first responders. The first sentence was approved by vote.

14B – 2 Concern was expressed about a person’s past ECO/TDO record influencing current actions of law enforcement. The second sentence was approved by vote.

15B – How is this different from Human Rights and/or the Office of the State Inspector General. The Inspector General for Behavioral Health function is folded into the current Office of the State Inspector General.

16B – Refer to the transformation teams.

7B, 10 B were approved by vote.

Discussion and Determination of Taskforce Recommendations

Public Comment – Lt. Governor Northam invited public comment at this time. There was one comment from the public:

Emily Segal – I am a graduate student at George Mason University and a candidate for the Master of Public Health. I am delighted to see that there is a recommendation for crisis intervention teams on university campuses. I am here as an advocate for the crisis intervention teams on university campuses.

Dr. Ferguson commented on the excellent work done by all who participated on and staffed the work groups and this task force. She also recognized two leaders who are retiring: Michael O'Connor from Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services, and Buzz Peterson from Region Ten Community Services Board.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Note:

* *Materials provided to the task force members are available at www.dbhds.virginia.gov*